

**Governor's P-20 Council  
Graduation Rate Project Committee Meeting  
October 5, 2006  
11:00 a.m.  
Meeting Notes**

**Location:** 1820 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona

**P-20 Members Present:** Dr. Sybil Francis, Chair, Dr. David Curd, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Tom Horne, Dr. Kino Flores, Lynda French, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dr. Jim Zaharis, and Bob Hagen

**Others:** Dr. Benah Parker, Preethy George, Rebecca Bolnick, Judith Padres, Dr. Daniel Kain, Teena Olszowski, Frank Somers, Stella Torres, Amanda Burke, Janice McGoldrick, Bo Damas, Marty Schultz, Jason Moore, Dr. Melissa Sackos, Grace Candia

**Staff:** Darcy Renfro; Becky Hill, and Debra Raeder

**1. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Dr. Sybil Francis called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., welcomed everyone and invited those present to introduce themselves.

**2. Presentations/Information – Raising the Compulsory School Attendance Age**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>a. JAG Program</b>   | <b>Marty Schultz</b>      |
|   | <b>Jason Moore</b>        |
| <b>b. Maricopa Community College – ACE Program</b>                          | <b>Stella Torres</b>      |
| <b>c. Northern Arizona University – GEARUP</b>                              | <b>Dr. Dan Kain</b>       |
|   | <b>Teena Olszewski</b>    |
| <b>d. Scottsdale Unified School District – In-School Suspension Program</b> | <b>Dr. Melissa Sackos</b> |
| <b>e. Tolleson Union High School District – Dropout Prevention Program</b>  | <b>Dr. Kino Flores</b>    |
| <b>f. Center for the Future of Arizona</b>                                  | <b>Dr. Benah Parker</b>   |

The Committee heard extremely informative and detailed presentations on each of the above listed programs from the identified presenters.

After the presentations, the Committee engaged in discussion on the information presented. Most of the discussion centered on information presented by the Center for the Future of Arizona on research related to the compulsory attendance age (CAA). Currently, 14 states have a CAA of 18, 10 states have a CAA of 17 and 26 states have a CAA of 16. States with a CAA of 18 reported a median graduation rate of 86%; states with a CAA of 16 reported a median graduation rate of 81%; Arizona's median graduation rate for 2005 was 76.8%. The argument favoring a higher CAA includes improved graduation rates. The argument against a higher CAA includes students who do not want to be in school cause disruption.

After discussion, Dr. Francis and committee members thanked all of the presenters for their attendance and the information shared.

### **3. Presentation – Arizona Department of Education**

- a. Data System**
- b. Update on Auditor General's Report**
- c. Student Identifier Numbers**

Janice McGoldrick and Bo Damas provided information to the Committee on ADE's data system, and provided an update on the Auditor General's Report. Ms. McGoldrick provided a written project status report on the Education Data Warehouse system.

Ms. McGoldrick also provided information regarding ADE's ability to support the 10 elements of a longitudinal data system as follows:

- Elements 1, 2, 3 and 8 have been implemented.
- Element 9 is in process with the passage of SB1045.
- ADE currently has the ability to implement 4, 7 (need amendment to statute to collect and manage) and 10, or are already implementing in a limited way.
- ADE staff expressed concern about the agency's ability to implement 5 (believe a change to Title 15 would be required); and 6 (indicating they do not have the capabilities).

The Committee requested that ADE clarify their concern related to bringing student transcripts on line as there appeared to be conflicting information. ADE staff indicated that they would get back to the Committee with clear information.

A representative from ABOR presented information on the current implementation of SB1045 indicating that implementation date is June 30, 2007.

### **4. Discussion – Prioritizing remaining elements of the 10 Elements of a Longitudinal Data System.**

After the lengthy discussion from Item 3, the Committee was in agreement to pursue the further implementation or development of Elements 5, 6 and 9.

### **5. Next Steps**

Due to the time, the Committee requested a meeting prior to the next Governor's P-20 Council meeting to discuss recommendations to present to the Council on graduation supports, and end-of-course testing.

### **6. Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the Public to address the Committee.

### **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:00 p.m.

